

BOROUGH OF MIDDLETON.

Annual Report

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health,

AND OF THE

Inspector of Nuisances,

FOR THE YEAR

♦♦ **1902.** ♦♦

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BOROUGH OF MIDDLETON.

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH,

1902.

To the Chairman and Members of the Health Committee

GENTLEMEN,

I have considered it advisable to adhere to the census returns for 1901, in dealing with the vital statistics for the past year. I regret that I am unable to further subdivide the localities of known populations. I consider it would be an advantage if each of the Wards could be divided into an outer and an inner area, for the sanitary conditions are dissimilar in many respects, such as density of population, nature of occupation open spaces, and atmospheric impurities; and might with benefit be contrasted as to incidence of disease and rates of mortality.

BIRTHS.

During the twelve months ending 31st Dec., 1902, 668 births were registered, being 60 more than in preceding year, and equal to a rate of 26.5 per 1,000; being almost exactly the average for the past ten years. I am enabled from the registrar returns to classify the births into the different wards for 1902, viz:- 182 in North, 261 in South, and 225 in West. The total males were 332, and females 336; and included 21 illegitimate births, 12 males and 9 females.

The number of births registered in each quarter was as under :

March quarter	...	...	163
June quarter	...	...	161
Sept. quarter	...	...	195
Dec. quarter	...	...	149
			—
			668
			—

The number of deaths under one year to 1,000 births was 124, a great diminution on preceding year. Further particulars for ten years are to be found in accompanying tables.

DEATHS.

The number of deaths registered in the borough during the year amounted to 394, but in order to obtain the correct death rate, 8 more deaths have been added which took place in Institutions outside the district, and one of a person killed at Blackpool. These nine deaths were notified to me by the Medical Officers of Health in the respective Boroughs, and four were the result of accidents. Two died at the Royal Infirmary, and two at Northern Hospital, Manchester; three at the Oldham Infirmary; and one at Eccles. These have been distributed unto the localities to which they belonged

in Middleton, and make a total of 403 deaths, equal to an annual rate of 16 per thousand. In former reports I have also included the deaths of Middleton inmates at Oldham Workhouse, but I don't think it is necessary to continue doing so, as many of them have been so long there as to qualify them as residents in the Borough of Oldham. However I have obtained a list as usual through the Master. The deaths were distributed as follows into Wards:-

North 118; South 152; West 132.

One died outside the District, and I was unable to ascertain to which Ward the child belonged. Full information is given in the tables required by the Local Government Board and the Lancashire County Council, in regard to details.

In Table I, both the vital statistics for the year 1902, the averages for past ten years, and each year since 1892, together with birth and death rates, and the number of deaths of infants under one year to 1,000 births, are given.

In Table II, those for each locality, including registered births and deaths under a year, with respective populations.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

100 cases of infectious diseases have been notified by medical practitioners during the year, including four of smallpox, and in reference to which I wrote special reports, copies of which were forwarded to the Local Government Board and County Council.

No deaths were attributed to Scarlet Fever, although prevalent to some extent, especially at Rhodes village and in West Ward, where 22 cases occurred out of a total of 53 notified cases. I issued circulars in reference to isolation of cases, also as to Measles, Whooping Cough, and Chicken Pox, advising in Measles the patient to be kept in bed during the period of rash. A number of Scarlet Fever cases were

sent to hospital, and in Table III. the distribution on the dangerous infectious diseases is given in full, with the localities from which cases were removed to Hospital. They were fewest in North Ward, and most in West Ward. Thirty cases of Erysipelas were notified, with one death. One of Enteric and four of Puerperal Fever, and four of Diphtheria and Membranous Croup were also notified during the year.

Phthisis, and other Tubercular Diseases.

There were the same number of deaths from consumption of the lungs as from all the seven principal zymotic diseases together, and seven more arose from tubercular disease elsewhere than the lungs. The disease is not notifiable here at present, but bacterial diagnosis are made in some cases, and thus I am able to ascertain the locality of the disease before death, but no active steps have been taken to interfere with the patients by enforced isolation, by the Sanitary Authority. There has been a marked decrease in the deaths since 1901, when 48 died from Phthisis, besides 16 from other tubercular diseases; whereas for the past year the rate has been 1.5 per thousand.

Diseases of the Respiratory Organs.

Bronchitis caused 45 deaths, of which 12 were in North and 18 in West Ward, against 37 in 1901, of which 10 were in North Ward and 16 in West Ward.

To Pneumonia, 58 deaths were attributed, of which 11 were in North Ward, and 25 in West Ward, against 42 in 1901, of which 8 were in North and 19 in West Ward. The population of West Ward is only 1,120 over that of North, and the contrast is unfavourable to West Ward, where the condition of atmosphere engendered by the Rhodes Works Reservoirs has been at variance with the good health of the community.

Pleurisy caused three deaths, and other diseases of the respiratory organs one death during the year, making a total of 107 deaths, equal to a rate of 4.2 per 1,000; besides which one death was certified as due to influenza, against four in 1901.

Cancer.

Cancer and other malignant diseases caused 15 deaths, against 24 in 1901.

Alcoholism and Cirrhosis of Liver.

Taken conjointly, they caused seven deaths, but some were from one cause and some from the other; and the connection of the two complaints is more doubtful than formerly supposed.

Heart Disease.

To this cause 44 deaths were attributed. 26 cases between 25 and 65, and 16 over 65 years of age. It is remarkable that the number is the same as in preceding year.

Premature Birth and other causes.

Only five deaths were certified as due to premature birth, whilst in preceding year 17 were so certified; and to diseases and accidents of parturition, only one, against three in 1901. Acute Rheumatism occasioned six, and enteritis three deaths.

Accidents and Suicides.

From accidents thirteen deaths took place, four occurring amongst residents outside the district; and from suicide two deaths. For the preceding year the numbers were respectively thirteen and four.

Exclusion of Children from School and School Closure.

During the past year, 868 children have been excluded from the elementary schools of Middleton, in addition to those suffering or in contact with the compulsory notifiable diseases.

Parkfield School was closed for a few weeks owing to Measles, and Wesleyan Infants' School, and special reports submitted.

The following table, drawn up from the register of exclusions kept of several schools, has been sent to each School.

In Whooping Cough, children were excluded for six weeks, in the other four complaints for three weeks, but in some cases the time is extended.

During the year 53 house drains were trapped, and 43 old privies altered to slop water closets, whilst 62 new slop water closets and 53 new water closets were added to the Borough, and it is estimated that there is a total of 1,174 slop water, and 468 fresh water closets, but it would have been much better if the figures could have been reversed.

In reference to the reservoirs belonging to Rhodes Works efforts have been made by well sinking to secure a fresh water supply, and time will tell whether the nuisance is removed, or to be repeated during warm weather.

Several matters referred to in previous reports, which have not been brought to a final issue during the past year, will, I trust, receive attention in the present year, including the selection of a cemetery site, and the provision of a steam disinfecter.

I am,

Yours respectfully,

Wm. Graham,

14th Feb., 1903.

Medical Officer of Health.

Table I.

Year I	Population estimated middle of each Year 2	BIRTHS		Deaths under 1 year of age 5	Deaths at all ages Total. 7	Deaths at all ages. Nett. 12	Deaths of non-residents registered in District 10	Deaths of residents reg- istered beyond District 11	Deaths at all ages. Nett. 13
		Number 3	Rate 4						
1892	22220	609	27.4	96	157	514	24.12		
1893	22500	668	29.6	107	160	417	18.53		
1894	23000	605	25.2	86	142	405	16.9		
1895	24000	669	27.8	117	174	454	18.9		
1896	24000	621	25.8	123	196	474	19.7		
1897	25600	660	25.7	126	190	429	18.3	3	26
1898	25600	679	26.52	113	166	396	15.7	2	22
1899	26000	647	25.2	110	170	439	16.8	2	34
1900	26000	688	26.46	87	126	384	14.76	2	42
1901	25178	608	24.1	107	177	453	18.9	2	42
Av'ges for yrs 1892- 1901	24409	645	26.4	107	163	436	18.1	6 years Averages	18
1901	25178	668	26.5	83	124	394	15.6	9	403

Area of District in acres .. 4741
 Total population at all ages .. 25,178 } At
 Number of inhabited houses .. 5,692 } Census
 Average number of persons per house .. 4.4 } 1901

Table II.

NAMES OF LOCALITIES	THE WHOLE BOROUGH	NORTH WARD				SOUTH WARD				WEST WARD			
		Deaths under 1 yr	Deaths at all ages	Births registered	Population estimated to middle of each year.	Deaths under 1 yr	Deaths at all ages	Births registered	Population estimated to middle of each year.	Deaths under 1 yr	Deaths at all ages	Births registered	Population estimated to middle of each year.
Year													
1892	22220	609	399	96	6724	1091	136	32	113	31	150	33
1893	22500	668	417	107	134	30	109	25	120	38	163	49
1894	23000	605	405	86	109	25	146	27	150	34	147	27
1895	24000	669	454	117	146	27	149	34	153	45	155	45
1896	24000	621	474	123	149	34	149	34	166	46	159	43
1897	25600	660	429	116	135	37	135	37	159	56	135	33
1898	25600	669	396	113	113	29	133	30	155	45	128	39
1899	26000	647	439	110	133	30	131	39	167	43	139	37
1900	26000	688	394	87	131	39	153	29	125	20	128	28
1901	25178	608	493	108	7651	21	8936	174	43	8571	166	36
Averages of years 1892 to 1901		24409	644	430	106	7187	21	134	31	8128	148	8344	147
1902	25178	668	403	83	7651	182	118	151	8936	151	8571	133

Table III.

Cases of Infectious Disease notified during the year 1902.

Notifiable Disease	Cases notified in whole district							Total Cases notified in each locality			No. of cases removed to Hospital from each locality		
	At all ages	YEARS						North Ward	South Ward	West Ward	North Ward	South Ward	West Ward
		Under 1	1 to 5	5 to 15	15 to 25	25 to 65	65 and upwards						
Small-pox	4			1		3		3	1		3	1	
Diphtheria.....	5		1	3		1		1	1	3	1		1
Membrn's Croup	3		2	1				1		2			
Erysipelas	30	3		1	9	15	2	10	8	12			
Scarlet Fever. ..	53	1	18	31		3		9	22	22	5	8	4
Enteric Fever ..	1					1				1			
Puerperal Fever..	4				1	3		1	3				
Total....	100	4	21	37	10	26	2	24	33	43	9	9	5

Table IV.

Causes of, and ages at, Death during Year 1902.

CAUSES OF DEATH.	DEATHS IN WHOLE DISTRICT AT SUBJOINED AGES.							DEATHS IN LOCALITI ES AT ALL AGES		
	All ages	Under 1	1 and under 5	5 and under 15	15 and under 25	25 and under 65	65 and upwards	North Ward	South Ward	West Ward
Small Pox	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Measles	18	6	8	4	—	—	—	6	7	5
Scarlet Fever	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Whooping-cough	7	3	4	—	—	—	—	4	2	1
Diphtheria	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Membranous Croup	3	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Croup	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Fever	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Typhus	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Enteric	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Other continued	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Epidemic Influenza	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Cholera	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Plague	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Diarrhoea	4	4	—	—	—	—	—	3	—	—
Enteritis	3	2	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	—
Puerperal Fever	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Erysipelas	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Other septic diseases	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Phthisis	33	1	—	—	6	25	1	8	16	9
Other tubercular diseases	7	3	1	1	1	1	—	1	4	2
Cancer, malignant disease	15	—	—	—	—	7	8	5	6	4
Bronchitis	45	9	7	1	—	15	13	12	15	18
Pneumonia	58	10	9	3	2	20	14	11	22	25
Pleurisy	3	—	1	1	—	—	1	1	—	—
Other diseases of Respir. Organs	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Alcoholism Cirrhosis of liver	7	—	—	—	—	6	1	2	4	1
Venereal diseases	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Premature birth	5	5	—	—	—	—	—	1	2	2
Diseases & accidents of parturiti'n	1	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
Heart diseases	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Accidents	44	1	—	—	1	26	16	11	18	15
Suicides	13	4	—	2	1	4	2	3	6	4
Acute Rheumatism	2	—	—	—	—	2	—	1	—	1
All other causes	123	34	9	3	—	34	43	38	45	38
All causes	403	82	41	19	13	148	100	118	151	133

**Children excluded from School during
the year ending Dec. 31st.**

1902.

SCHOOLS	Chicken Pox	Influenza	Measles	Mumps	Whooping Cough	Total
St. Mary's, Birch.....	—	—	—	—	—	—
Old School, Thornham	1	—	—	—	—	—
Primitive Methodist Bowlee ..	—	—	—	—	—	—
Rhodes	—	—	—	—	—	—
Holy Trinity, Parkfield	1	1	167	1	10	180
New Jerusalem	—	—	69	—	—	69
Wesleyan, Wood Street	—	1	125	—	17	143
S. Leonard's	26	—	106	3	55	190
Baptist, Mills Hill	—	—	—	—	—	—
Wesleyan, Middleton Junction	—	—	—	—	—	—
St. Gabriel's	—	1	87	—	—	87
Church, Higher Tonge	—	—	—	—	—	—
St. Michael's	—	1	177	—	12	189
St. Peters	—	—	—	—	—	—
Central School	7	—	3	—	—	10
Totals.....	34	2	734	4	94	968

TABLE C. COUNTY OF LANCASTER.

Summary of Medical Officer's Report,

1902.

Urban Sanitary District of Middleton.

Area in Statute Acres	...	...	4.741
Population (Census) 1901	...	...	25,178
Population (Estimated) 1902	...	...	25,178

Name of Medical Officer of Health—

WILLIAM GRAHAM, M.D., M.C.H., D.P.H.
Salary, £100 per annum.

Births registered—Male 332. Female 336. Total 668.

Deaths registered—Male 215. Female 188. Total 403.

Number of Illegitimate Births registered—21.

Birth Rate—26.5. Death Rate—16.

Rate of Infant Deaths under one year, to 1,000 Births—124.

Diseases prevalent ? Measles. Period ? Autumn.

What action taken ? Circular.

Any Schools closed ? Yes.

If so, for what disease ? Measles.

What is the character of Hospital accommodation ? Rochdale Borough Hospital. By arrangement.

Number of Beds available for the District ? 40.

What were the cases treated ? Small Pox 4. Scarlet Fever 17.
Diphtheria 2.

Deaths in Hospital ? None.

How is Disinfection carried out—

Houses ? By Sulphurous Acid and Formalin Vapour.

Apparatus used ? Alformant Lamp.

Clothing, Bedding, &c. sometimes burnt.

No Steam Disinfector, but premises purchased for erection of one which has been decided upon.

Number of Cases of Infectious Disease notified ? 100.

Are any Diseases not specifically mentioned in the Act notifiable (for instance, Measles, Whooping Cough, Diarrhoea, &c.) ? If so, what are they ? The two former, with Influenza, Mumps, and Chicken Pox, are systematically notified by Teachers in elementary Schools.

Has any arrangement been made for the ' voluntary ' notification of Phthisis ? No.

Has any action been taken under " The Housing of the Working Classes Act, 1890 ? No legal action.

How many houses, condemned as unfit for human habitation, have been closed or demolished ? Some have become empty.

What is the condition of the Water Supply ? Good, but dear.

Is it subject to your inspection ? Yes, but no analyses made by me.

Is Scavenging carried out satisfactorily ? Fairly, but better arrangements might be made for removal and deposit of night-soil.

By Sanitary Authority or contract ? Principally by Sanitary Authority.

How is the Refuse disposed of ? Carted on farms. No destructor but premises acquired for erection for one.

What is the character of Drainage, and the form of Sewage Disposal ? Some out-districts to be provided for. Both International System and Bacteria Beds.

Canal Boats ? 50 Canal Boats were inspected, and 6 infringements found by Sanitary Inspector. In each, notices were served, and complied with.

What is the condition of the Bakehouses ? Satisfactory.

Slaughter Houses ? Clean, and with two exceptions meat was passed as fit for human food.

Lodging Houses ? Three.

Are they registered ? Yes.

Dairies, Cowsheds, and Milkshops—

Are they periodically inspected ? Yes.

What is their condition ? Drainage bad.

Are they subject to Regulations made under the Order of the Local Government Board ? Yes.

What amount of air space in cubic feet is required for each cow ? 800 for new, 400 for old buildings.

Have the Factories and Workshops been inspected, and with what result ? 130 visits paid to the 81 workshops on register. Two dirty—one a dirty closet ; one without. Notices were served.

Food unfit for Human Consumption. Amount seized ? Two carcases.

Any Special Report of Medical Officer of Health during the year ? Yes—Small Pox, School Closure.

Department of Inspectors of Nuisances—

No. of Notices served ? 185 preliminary, 38 formal.

No. of Nuisances remedied ? 124.

No. of Legal Proceedings taken and result ?

Smoke—

No. of Observations ? 97.

No. of Legal Proceedings taken and result ? 7 fined.

What is the time limit allowed for the emission of black smoke per hour ? 10 minutes.

Has the Authority adopted—

(a) 'The Infectious Disease (Prevention) Act, 1890 ?' Yes

(b) 'The Public Health Acts Amendment Act, 1890 ?'
Yes. (Sanitary provisions).



BOROUGH OF MIDDLETON.

Sanitary Department, Town Hall, Middleton.

SANITARY INSPECTOR'S

ANNUAL REPORT

For the Year ended 31st December, 1902.

To the Chairman and Members of the Health Committee,

GENTLEMEN,

I have very much pleasure in presenting to you my seventh Annual Report on the work done in the Sanitary department during the year ended 31st December, 1902.

There is also included in the report, a statement of the number of loads and the cost of removal of the nightsoil for the year.

Also, a tabular statement of the amount of money received from, and the number of stalls which have occupied the Market Ground.

Under the various headings comprising this report, I have ventured to make several remarks and suggestions which I think will be well worth your consideration, and tend to improve the sanitation of the Borough.

Summary of Inspector's Report.

Legal notices served ...	...	...	...	...	...	38
Preliminary notices served ...	...	...	...	...	...	185
Smoke observations taken ...	...	...	...	...	...	97
Prosecutions re black smoke	...	...	...	...	...	7
Legal Notices ,, ,,	...	...	...	...	...	6
Canal Boats inspected ...	...	..	...	...	...	50
Diseased, unsound, &c. meat seized	...	...	...	...	950 lbs.	
Samples of milk submitted for analysis	...	...	...	...	...	22
Visits to slaughter houses ...	...	...	...	...	...	776
,, common lodging houses ...	...	...	...	...	...	143
,, offensive trades ...	...	...	...	...	...	171
,, workshops ...	...	...	...	...	...	130
,, dairies and cowsheds	...	...	...	...	...	41

Number of cases of infectious diseases reported...	...	100
,, patients removed to Marland Hospital	...	22
,, rooms disinfected in consequence of infectious disease	...	270
,, visits in respect of infectious disease ...	...	372

Nuisances found existing during 1902.

Defective brick channels	...	...	...	...	...	3
,, back yards...	...	...	...	...	...	35
,, waste pipes	...	...	...	...	...	17
,, privies	...	...	...	...	...	5
,, eaves gutters	...	...	...	...	...	4
,, sanitary cans	...	...	...	...	...	43
,, rainwater pipes	...	...	...	...	...	16
,, passages	...	...	...	...	...	2
,, open ashpit	...	...	...	...	...	3
,, drains	...	...	...	...	...	4
,, traps	...	...	...	...	...	2
,, ashpit door	...	...	...	...	...	1
,, closet roof ...	...	...	...	...	...	1
,, brick paved kitchen floors	...	...	...	...	...	2
Dilapidated closets	...	...	...	...	...	3
Dangerous privies	...	...	...	...	...	2
Foul offensive privies	...	...	...	...	...	29
,, „ uncovered ashpits	...	...	...	...	...	27
Dangerous ashpit	...	...	...	...	...	1
Insufficient closet accommodation	...	...	...	...	...	4
,, ashpit „	...	...	...	...	...	10
Workshop without closet accommodation	...	...	...	...	...	1
,, dirty closet	...	...	...	...	...	1
,, no sanitary cans to closets	...	...	...	...	...	5
Dirty workshops	...	...	...	...	...	2
,, dwelling-houses	...	...	...	...	...	2
,, passage ...	...	...	...	...	...	1
No rainwater pipes	...	...	...	...	...	3

Untrapped drains	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	60
Dwelling-houses without back doors	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3
Dirty common lodging house	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Insufficient iron traps	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	4
Waste pipes connected direct to untrapped drains	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	12
Damp house	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
No eaves gutter	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Choked rainwater pipes	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	4
,, drains	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	33
,, waste water closets	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	10
,, gullies	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3
Foul gullies	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3
Drains not connected to sewer	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3
Foul and offensive open cesspools	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3
,, lodges	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Closets without doors	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3
Ashpits	,,	,,	...	...	...	...	...	3
No channels from waste pipe to drain	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	4
Keeping fowls so as to be a nuisance	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Unpaved back yards	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	17
Brick paved kitchen floors	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Nuisance from low chimney	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1

Nuisances abated during the year 1902.

Defective waste pipes made good	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	4
,, eaves gutters	,,	...	...	...	...	...	...	4
,, rainwater pipes	,,	...	...	...	...	...	...	12
,, passages	,,	...	...	...	...	...	...	3
,, back yards	,,	...	...	...	...	...	...	4
,, channels	,,	...	...	...	...	...	...	3
,, drains	,,	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
,, ashpit door	,,	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Sanitary cans provided	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	43
Privies converted to sanitary cans	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	8
,, to the water carriage system	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	8

Sufficient closet accommodation provided...	...	...	2
Wet ashpits converted to dry ashpits	...	...	10
Efficient ashpits provided	...	...	3
Sewage removed from back yard	...	...	1
Ashpit doors provided	...	...	3
Dwelling-house provided with back door...	...	...	1
Common lodging house cleaned	...	...	1
Waste pipes disconnected from drains	...	...	4
Drains trapped	...	...	22
Choked drains opened	...	...	34
,, waste water closets opened	...	...	10
,, rainwater pipes opened	...	...	3
Eaves gutter provided	...	...	1
Foul gullies cleansed...	...	...	3
Choked gullies opened	...	...	3
Efficient trap provided	...	...	1
Dirty closet cleansed...	...	...	1
,, passage cleansed	...	...	1
,, dwelling-house cleansed	...	...	1
,, workshops cleansed	...	...	2
Cellar floor flagged	...	...	1
Offensive manure heaps removed	...	...	5
Kitchen floor flagged...	...	...	1
Poultry removed from back yard	...	...	1
Foul cesspool removed	...	...	1
Closet door provided...	...	...	1
Nuisance from low chimney remedied	...	...	1
Ashpit furnished with proper roof...	...	...	1
Rainwater pipe provided	...	...	1

Nuisances unabated 31st December, 1902.

Defective channels	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
,, back yards...	...	...	...	...	...	...	28
,, waste pipes	...	...	...	...	...	...	14
,, privies	...	...	...	...	...	...	4

Defective ashpits	...	...	...	...	...	...	3
,, drains	...	...	...	...	...	...	3
Dangerous ashpit	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
,, privy	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Foul offensive privies	...	...	...	...	...	...	20
,, " wet ashpits	...	...	...	...	...	...	15
Waste pipes connected direct to untrapped drains	...						7
Untrapped drains	...	...	...	...	...	...	36
Insufficient closet accommodation	...	...	...	...	...	...	3
,, ashpit	,,	...	...	...	...	...	2
No rainwater pipe	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Choked drains...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Damp house	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Drains not connected to sewer	...	...	...	...	...	...	3
Closet without door	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Ashpit	,,	...	...	...	...	...	1
No channels from the waste pipes to the drains	...						3
Unpaved back yards...	...	...	...	...	...	...	14
Houses without back doors...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Ashpits not furnished with proper doors and coverings	...						2
Offensive cesspool	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Brick paved kitchen floor	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Inefficient ashpits	...	...	...	...	...	...	3
Foul lodges	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
No ashpit accommodation	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Choked rainwater pipe	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
No sanitary can	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Inefficient iron traps...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Defective sanitary cans	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
,, traps	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
,, rainwater pipes	...	...	...	...	...	...	4
,, house floor...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1

One hundred and eighty-five preliminary notices have been served during the year under review, requiring the abatement of nuisances arising from the aforementioned causes.

Of the one hundred and eighty-five notices, one hundred and twenty-four have been complied with, leaving sixty-one not complied with, which necessitated the serving of thirty-eight Formal Notices under the Public Health Act, 1875, the latter notice only being served after the nuisance complained of has been reported to the Local Authority, whose sanction is necessary before it can be served.

Of the thirty-eight Formal Notices served, only eight have been complied with, which is a very small number indeed when compared with the number of notices served.

A number of persons, upon whom notices are served, appear to think that it is not altogether necessary to carry out the works specified in the notice, and for the sake of cheapness, employ men who have not the slightest idea of what is required of them, and when the work of abatement is supposed to have been completed, the premises are often in as bad, if not a worse sanitary condition than before the work was commenced. I would point out, that in serving notices under the Public Health Act, 1875, that it is necessary that the works required to be executed in order to abate the nuisance must be specified, and that any person failing to comply with the requirements of such notice within the time stated therein, is liable to be prosecuted in order to obtain the carrying out of the provisions of the notice.

Notices have been served to trap and ventilate sixty drains, but of these only twenty-two have been trapped, whilst ventilation does not appear to have had scarcely any consideration, and in the great majority of cases, the rainwater pipes are expected to act as drain ventilation shafts. Owing to rainwater pipes terminating close under the eaves, and in many cases near to bedroom windows, I venture to think that you will agree with me that it is scarcely an ideal place to discharge the noxious gases from the drains or sewers, and that it would be much better if our drains were ventilated by special shafts

carried up above the roofs of the houses to such a height as would cause them to discharge their gases into the atmosphere at such a height above the roofs of the houses as to render them harmless.

As many nuisances may arise from carelessness or indifference in laying drains, it would be a great safeguard if every drain was subjected to either the smoke or hydraulic test before being passed as satisfactory, without some such test it is impossible to say whether a drain is perfectly water tight or not, and fit for the work it has to perform.

There are still a large number of unpaved and defective back yards which require attention. During the year I have endeavoured to get a good many flagged, and those that have broken surfaces to be repaired, but I regret I have not been so successful as I could have liked, and unless more attention is paid to notices requiring the abatement of nuisances arising from this cause, it will be necessary to take legal proceedings against the persons in default.

Much improvement might also be effected if all the back passages were properly drained and paved, as very often these passages are almost impassible during wet weather.

The conversion of privy middens to the water carriage system has, up to the present, proceeded very slowly, but during the year 1903, I am hoping to see them considerably reduced in number, either by arrangement with owners, or by notice, as they are a great nuisance and the cause of a great many complaints.

The gullies underneath the slopstone waste pipes do not receive the attention that is necessary to keep them clean, and very often they are completely choked before being cleansed, this can easily be remedied if the occupiers of houses will take the trouble once per week to remove all solid matter from the gully.

Many complaints are made of bad smells arising from the slopstone waste pipes. The waste pipes are generally constructed so as to allow of the air from outside to pass through the pipe which has become foul direct into the house. The way to prevent this nuisance is to have all waste pipes trapped underneath the slopstone which will prevent the air passing the seal of the trap.

Smoke Observations.

Name of Firm.	Address.	Number of Observations	Average time black smoke was emitted	
			M.	S.
Tonge Vale Spinning Co.	Tonge Vale.....	6	8	29.5
Irkdale Bleaching Co. ...	Cheetham Street ...	2	8	33.5
Gorton & Halliday.....	Park Lane	5	2	25.5
E. Kempsey & Co.....	Townley Street	6	5	44.83
Irk Spinning Co.	Oldham Road	7	5	54.86
Albany Spinning Co.....	Old Hall Street.....	4	2	54
Townley Spinning Co. ...	Tonge Vale.....	5	0	57.66
Richard Ashworth & Sons	Spring Vale	6	7	57.66
Wilton Manufacturing Co.	Lodge Street	1	1	53
British Cotton & Wool Dyers' Association	Kid Clough.....	6	6	29
H. Cocker & Co.	Wood Street	5	1	55.6
T. B. Wood & Co.	Suffield Street.....	2	3	26
Middleton & Tonge and Times Cotton Mill Co.s'	Dane Street.....	5	13	53.2
R. K. Lee & Co.	Green Street	3	5	33.66
Robert McBride.....	Wood Street	1	1	6
Mather & Ormesher.....	Manchester New Rd.	4	2	45.5
Dickins & Co.	Spring Vale	4	10	25.25
Parker Lord & Co.	Oldham Road	3	4	35.33
Middleton Corporation (Electricity Works) ...	Townley Street	3	3	18
Calico Printers' Asso....	Rhodes	3	18	29.66
Obadiah Ashworth & Co.	Rhodes	1	2	33
Thomas Partington	Green Street.....	2	5	10

Smoke Observations.

Name of Firm.	Address.	Number of Observations	Average time black smoke was emitted	
			M.	S.
R. E. Halliday & Co. ...	Market Place	1	0	0
Boarshaw Raising and Finishing Co.	Boarshaw Road	4	5	14.75
Dickins & Heywood ...	Spring Vale	2	4	35.5
Don Mill Co.	Oldham Road	1	1	8
Times Mill Co.	Dane Street	1	7	45
S. Barlow & Co.	Stakehill.....	1	9	34

Ninety-seven observations have been taken, and the limit of ten minutes emission of black smoke per hour has been exceeded on sixteen occasions; in seven of the cases the offenders were prosecuted, and in the remaining cases notices to abate the nuisances were served.

The average time black smoke was emitted is six minutes and two seconds.

I respectfully beg to suggest that the period of observation be reduced from one hour to half-an-hour, and that the limit for the emission of black smoke be reduced in proportion.

Canal Boats Acts.

Fifty canal boats have been inspected under the above Acts, and six infringements were found. The Captains of two of the boats failed to produce the certificates when asked for, two were without water casks, and two had very dirty cabins. In each of the foregoing infringements, the owners were served with notices to make the necessary alterations, in each case the notice was complied with.

The cabins of the boats were registered for two hundred and forty-one persons, and occupied by one hundred and forty persons comprised of one hundred and one men, twenty-two women, and seventeen children. With the above exceptions, the cabins were clean and free from overcrowding and infectious disease.

Month	No. of boats.	Month	No. of boats.
Jan.	2	Aug.	3 2 children on board
Feb.	1	Sept.	3 2 , , ,
March	4 3 children on board	Oct.	3 3 , , ,
April	6 6 , , , ,	Nov.	9 1 child , ,
May	3	Dec.	4
June	8		—
July	4		Total...50

Infectious Disease.

During the year, one hundred cases of infectious disease have been reported, against eighty-five cases for the year 1901, an increase of fifteen cases.

Each case has been visited, and the persons having charge of the patient have been cautioned against doing anything that would cause the disease to spread.

In scarlet fever cases, the persons having charge of the patients have been supplied with a printed copy of the Medical Officer's instructions as to the necessity of and the duration of isolation, and the penalties to which they were liable for non-compliance with the instructions.

Although there has been an increase of four cases of scarlatina reported, I think that the printed instructions have had the effect intended by your Committee.

There has been only one case of enteric fever reported during the year, which is six less than the year 1901, and twelve less than for the year 1900.

Four cases of small pox have occurred during the year, which represents three different outbreaks, as none of the patients, with one exception, had come in contact with each other. The first case, which occurred in the neighbourhood of Dane Street, we were unable to trace its origin, but the second case, which occurred in Half Street, was traced to Tintwistle, Cheshire; whilst the third case was undoubtedly infected by the patient in the second case; the fourth patient lived in Boarshaw Road, and worked in Oldham where the disease had been prevalent for some time, so that in all probability the infection was brought from there. In all the cases the patients were removed to hospital as soon as possible, the beds were burned, the houses disinfected, and all those living in the same house were vaccinated or re-vaccinated, and all persons who had been in contact with the patients and could be found, were visited and advised to be vaccinated, several of whom submitted.

In each case the efforts to prevent the disease spreading were successful in keeping the disease confined to the house where it broke out, and only in the case from Half Street was a second person infected.

Sixteen patients suffering from scarlatina have been removed to Marland Hospital.

In each case, a notice signed by the Medical Officer of Health, has been forwarded to the Schoolmasters of the various schools which the patient and other children residing in the same house have attended to warn them against permitting the children attending school until a further notice was received that the house had been disinfected, and the children could again attend school.

Owing to the difficulty of obtaining a site, your Committee have not been able to provide a steam disinfecter as they intended to, but during the year 1903 it is hoped a site will be obtained to which no objection can be raised.

Two hundred and seventy rooms have been disinfected in consequence of infectious disease.

Diseases.	No. of patients.	No. of patients removed to hospital.	Rooms fumigated.
Small pox.....	4	4	16
Scarlatina.....	52	17	215
Diphtheria.....	5	2	20
Enteric Fever.....	1	—	11
Puerperal Fever.....	4	—	4
Erysipelas.....	31	—	—
Membraneous Croup	3	—	4
Total.....	100	23	270

Shop Hours Acts.

All the shops where young persons under the above Acts are employed have been visited. The occupiers of three shops were found to be employing young persons without exhibiting the necessary notice, in each case they were cautioned, and supplied with the necessary notice, which was hung up in the shop and the provisions of the Acts complied with.

Seats for Shop Assistants Acts.

In all the shops where females are employed, seats have been provided and the Act complied with.

Slaughter Houses.

Seven hundred and seventy-six visits have been paid to the slaughter houses : they were found to be clean, and with two exceptions, the meat examined was passed as fit for human food.

Four occupiers of slaughter houses have been supplied with copies of the bye-laws regulating the same.

The occupier of one slaughter house was cautioned against slaughtering animals without first securing their heads whilst another was cautioned for bleeding a calf before finally killing it

Unsound Food.

Two carcases of beef have been seized from a slaughter house ; in one case the occupier called me in to examine a carcase which, upon examination, I found was badly affected with tuberculosis. I at once formally seized the carcase, and called in the Medical Officer of Health and Veterinary Surgeon, both of whom said the animal had suffered from tuberculosis and was therefore unfit for the food of man.

The second was an animal I found hung up and dressed ready for sale ; it was very badly bruised, and in a most emaciated condition ; I seized the carcase and called in the Medical Officer of Health, who said the carcase was not fit for human food. Upon making enquires, I was informed that the animal had been brought from Ireland, and that it had got down in the truck and had been trampled on by the other animals in the same truck, and that the owner had refused to receive it from the railway company, who had it slaughtered, and inspected by a Veterinary Surgeon, who said

it was not fit for food. The carcase was in a very poor condition and was not over half the weight a healthy animal should be.

In each case I got a magistrate to condemn the carcases and sign an order for their destruction. Both carcases were destroyed in such a manner as to prevent their being used as human food.

Common Lodging Houses.

There are four registered common lodging houses in the Borough to which one hundred and forty-three visits have been paid. With one exception they were found clean and satisfactory.

One lodging house was found to be dirty, the owners were cautioned and the house cleansed, and no further complaint in this respect has been necessary.

Two persons were found to be keeping common lodging houses without being registered, both were reported to your Committee, and it was decided that they must be closed.

Two applications have been made for registration as keepers of common lodging houses, one application was granted the other being refused.

During the month of October, a man was removed from one of the common lodging houses to the workhouse, supposed to be suffering from bronchitis, but after being in the workhouse a few days it was noticed that he had a rash on his body, which turned out to be the rash of small pox. Upon receiving the information the lodging house was thoroughly disinfected, and all the lodgers were kept under observation for fourteen days, but no further case occurred.

Foul Rivers.

During the greater part of the year, numerous complaints have been made respecting the foul and offensive condition of the rivers which run through the Borough, and in accordance with your instructions I had them under observation during the greater part of the year. Upon investigation, I found that sewage was being discharged into all the streams, except the river Whit, by neighbouring authorities.

The river Wince was most offensive during the greater part of the year, and the smell arising from it was abominable and most offensive, and was perceptible for some considerable distance away from the stream itself, and the inhabitants of Peach Bank found it almost unbearable; at times it had the appearance of a large open sewer with a large quantity of crude sewage passing down it. The sewage passing down this stream is undoubtedly discharged into it by two neighbouring authorities who are situated higher up the stream than our Borough, and one of its tributaries has for its source a sewer which discharges into a hollow in the ground, and it is hoped, that for the sake of the health and comfort of the people residing on the banks of this stream, that some steps will be taken to make it a clean and inoffensive stream of water.

Foul Lodges.

Owing to numerous complaints respecting the foul condition of certain lodges in the Borough, it was necessary to take legal proceedings against one firm. The case has been adjourned on three occasions, and is to be heard on the 11th March, 1903.

Contagious Diseases (Animals) Act.

Information was received from several places, that pigs sold at a sale held in the Borough, had been found suffering from swine fever. Several of the pigs were found in the Borough, and these having died, post mortem examinations were made of three of them, but no trace of disease was found in them.

The sale having been held without the consent of the Local Authority, the owner of the pigs, the auctioneer, and the owner of the place where the sale was held, were warned against holding any further sales without first obtaining the necessary consent.

Factory and Workshops Act, 1901.

The above Act which came in force on the 1st January, 1902, has added considerably to the duties of Local Authorities in respect of Factories and Workshops; they are responsible for the sanitary condition of all workshops: and in regard to factories, that suitable and sufficient sanitary conveniences are provided.

In order that the Council may be kept informed as to the places where home work is being done, occupiers of factories and workshops, or any place where work is given out, are required to forward to the Council twice a year, (viz: on the 1st February and the 1st August), the names and addresses of all persons employed by them as out workers.

In the event of any occupier failing to forward such a list he will be liable, on conviction, to a fine of £2 for the first offence, and to a fine of £5 for a second or subsequent offence.

There has not been any such list forwarded during the year, so that, either there are no outworkers in the Borough, or that the employers have either not made themselves acquainted with this provision of the Act, or have neglected to obey its provisions.

The Act also places a new duty on every Local Authority, of keeping a register of all workshops in their district. In this district, there are eighty-one workshops on the register, to which, one hundred and thirty visits have been paid. Two workshops were dirty: one, a dirty closet: five, no sanitary cans to the closets: and one without any closet accommodation; in each case, a notice was served, and with the exception of the one without closet accommodation, complied with.

Under this Act, every person is required to inform the Factory Inspector for the district, when he commences to occupy any place as a factory or workshop, and any person failing to give such information, is liable to a penalty of £5. Thirteen workshops in which, either a woman, young person, or child were employed, were found to be carried on without having a copy of the abstract of the Act exhibited as required by the Act. At the request of the Medical Officer of Health, the district Inspector of Factories was informed.

Food and Drugs Acts.

Twenty-two samples of milk have been obtained, and taken to the public Analyst for the purpose of analysis.

Twenty samples were reported as genuine and two were certified to contain five and six parts respectively, of added water to every hundred parts of milk. No proceedings were taken against the offenders.

I would draw the attention of Grocers, and other vendors of margarine, of the necessity of having all margarine exposed for sale properly labelled as required by the Act, as on several occasions I have found it unlabelled or the label partially covered up. The Act states, that the label must be clearly visible to the purchaser, and unless this is done, they are liable to be prosecuted and fined for not complying with the Act.

Dairies, Cowsheds, and Milkshops' Order.

Forty-one visits have been paid to the dairies and cowsheds under the above Order.

The drainage of all the farms visited was in very bad condition. The lighting and ventilation has in several instances been improved, but there is plenty of room for further improvement in this respect.

In several cases, the cowsheds were in a very dirty condition: and in two instances, the cattle had been allowed to lie in their dung, which caused the animals to be in a very dirty state. In each case, the attention of the occupier was drawn to the state of the cowshed, and cautioned to be more cleanly in future.

Each cowshed should be limewashed twice a year, in May and September, and I hope to see farmers carry this out without any further warning.

Removal of Nightsoil.

Month	No. of pails emptied	No. of loads	Cost	Cost	Privies loads	Ashes loads	Cost	Cost	Total cost per month
			per pail d.	per month £ s. d.			per load s. d.	per month £ s. d.	
Jan.	14,984	260	.951	59 7 1	204	473	2 10 $\frac{5}{8}$	97 14 5	157 1 6
Feb.	11,977	216	.951	47 9 8	192	384	2 11 $\frac{1}{3}$	84 15 2	132 4 10
Mar.	12,159	211	.950	48 2 6	242	334	2 11 $\frac{1}{8}$	84 6 1	132 8 7
Apr.	14,644	252	.946	57 15 0	245	412	2 9 $\frac{1}{2}$	91 3 8	148 18 8
May	11,834	204	.937	46 4 0	149	307	2 11 $\frac{2}{5}$	67 5 8	113 9 8
June	12,086	208	.943	47 9 8	232	348	2 10 $\frac{3}{5}$	83 12 9	131 2 5
July	15,019	260	.948	59 7 1	307	364	2 11 $\frac{7}{8}$	100 9 6	159 16 7
Aug.	11,359	198	.949	44 18 4	149	375	2 11	76 5 3	121 3 7
Sept.	12,510	216	.942	49 1 9	167	412	2 10	81 18 4	131 0 1
Oct.	15,047	261	.945	59 7 1	275	457	2 11	107 5 9	166 12 10
Nov.	11,993	208	.950	47 9 8	203	372	2 10 $\frac{3}{4}$	83 3 11	130 13 7
Dec.	14,963	260	.952	59 7 1	202	493	2 10 $\frac{1}{4}$	99 4 10	158 11 11
<i>Total</i>	<i>158,575</i>	<i>2754</i>		<i>629 18 11</i>	<i>2567</i>	<i>4731</i>		<i>1057 5 4</i>	<i>1683 4 3</i>

Total cost for the year ended 31st Dec. 1902—£1683 4 3

“ “ “ 1901—£1644 10 0—£38 14 3 increase

Total cost per load privy middens, dry ashes, and pails, 1902—3s. 4 $\frac{1}{6}$ d.

“ “ “ 1901—3s. 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ d.
1 $\frac{9}{16}$ d. increase

Total 1902.....Pails emptied.....158,575

“ 1901..... “ .. 156,149—2426 increase

“ 1902.....Pails loads 2754

“ 1901..... “ .. 2700—54 increase

“ 1902.....Privies loads 2567

“ 1901..... “ .. 3038—471 decrease

“ 1902.....Dry ashes, loads 4731

“ 1901..... “ .. 4197—534 increase

The removal of nightsoil from the districts of Bowlee and Stakehill, is carried out by contract, and therefore, is not included in the foregoing statement.

I beg to suggest that the Committee consider the advisability of adopting a more uniform and sanitary kind of ashpit. The large brick built ashpits take up a considerable amount of air space in the back yards; it becomes very foul and offensive, and therefore is insanitary; the doors are often thrown open by the children or are forced open by the ashpit being full, and the contents are either in the back yard or the passage; it is both costly and laborious to empty, and owing to its size, is liable to be neglected for two or more weeks.

In a great many cases, the contents of the privy middens and dry ashpits have to be wheeled from behind the premises and tipped into the street before being carted away, many complaints are received of nuisances arising from this cause.

At the present time, in a great many cases of tipping the refuse in the street is unavoidable, but in new property and where alterations are being made, if suitable bins, made of impervious material and provided with covers were provided for the storage of dry ashes, they could be emptied oftener at less cost, and the necessity of tipping in the street would be unnecessary.

The tipping in the street of the refuse from privy middens will have to continue until the privies are converted to closets on the water carriage system.

Considerable difficulty is experienced in disposing of the excreta from the pails, especially during the summer months, and very often it has to be carted from one side of the Borough to the other before being disposed of.

Tips.

Complaints are continually being made of the foul and offensive smells arising from the tips. It is to be regretted, that this nuisance cannot be remedied until all the privies are converted to the water carriage system, and wet open ashpits are converted to dry ashpits: when all faecal matter can be turned into the sewer and be treated at the sewage works: and when the refuse destructor is provided, the ashes can be destroyed by burning.

Market Receipts.

Month.	Receipts. £ s. d.	Number of Stalls.	Cost of Sweeping. £ s. d.
January.....	6 15 6	93	0 10 4
February	4 2 4	92	0 7 5
March	5 15 4	112	0 6 11
April	7 2 6	152	0 8 6
May	4 4 2	99	0 6 11
June	5 5 7	113	0 7 5
July	5 13 3	139	0 8 7
August	34 8 10	178	0 11 9
September	7 3 3	181	0 10 4
October.....	5 9 10	133	0 8 7
November	5 9 9	132	0 6 10
December.....	5 15 6	138	0 9 9
	<hr/> <u>£97 5 10</u>	<hr/> <u>1562</u>	<hr/> <u>£5 3 4</u>

Receipts, 1902	£ 97 5 10	Cost of Sweeping, 1902,	£ 5 3 4
," 1901	<u>112 8 4</u>	,"	<u>5 2 1</u>
Decrease	<u>£15 2 6</u>	Increase	<u>£0 1 3</u>

Number of Stalls, 1902	1562
", ", 1901	1703
	<u>141</u> Decrease.

The decrease in the amount of money drawn from, and the number of stalls which have occupied the Market ground during the year, is owing to their not being any market held on the date fixed for the Coronation to be held, or the week end during which the Coronation festivities took place: and, also, to the reduced amount taken during the Wakes.

I remain,

Yours faithfully,

Charles Henry Norton,
Inspector of Nuisances.



